

# Protection of public figure in media

## Abstract:

The purpose of the thesis is to analyze the protection of the public figure in media. It aims to describe the institute of the public figure, content of the institute and protection of public figure in the media. The thesis is composed of five chapters. The first chapter is introductory and defines the media and media law, gives the history of the protection of the public figure, and evaluates references. The introduction defines the main aim of the thesis, which is to describe the institute and its intent as well as to compare Czech and foreign judicature. Chapter two defines the public figure and is subdivided into three parts. Part one provides the terminology, the definition, and the origin of public figure. Part two deals with the different categories of public figures, such as the all-purpose public figure, the limited-purpose public figure, and the public official. Part three explains the specifics of the public figure in media, which are its privileged position, easier access to media, and the subsidiary of judicial power. Chapter three deals with the conflict of media and personal rights. It is subdivided into three parts. Part one deals with the conflict between the personal right of freedom of speech and the right to information. Part two describes the limitation of personal rights for the sake of public interest, the principle of proportionality, and the rights obligations of journalists. Part three looks at the spheres of life of the public figure and at various invasions of its personal rights, such as the invasion of privacy and defamation. Chapter four deals with the forms of such invasions and examines particular offenses. The chapter consists of three parts. Part one describes forms of personal rights invasion, such as the statement of fact, defamatory critique, and caricature. Part two explains the necessary conditions for the existence of an offense, such as identification, publication, and responsibility. Part three focuses on extrajudicial and judicial defense against the offense, as well as on indemnity and satisfaction. Conclusions are drawn in chapter five. Chapter five looks at actual questions concerning the protection of the public figure in media, examines the possible consequences of this protection, and proposes a basic summary. The summary includes the progress of the Czech judicature concerning the public figure and positive trends of the judicature, such as the increasing complexity of the institute. The summary also suggests that the institute of the public figure and its protection should be defined more precisely in the Czech judicature and expert literature, and that the public and media should be better informed about its intent and utilization.

**Keywords:**

Public figure, media, protection of personality